Boston March 19. '37

My dear Sir

friend Reynolds has written me (12th inst) that You were in Washin upon the 4th et seq. & refers me to You for a detailed account of the proceedings of the (dis) Hon. Secy of the Navy. He also informs me that Yourself, Pickering & Coates, took a decided stand against furnishing the Gentleman with the lists &c he desired in-officially - I regret not having known better how matters stood, as I should certainly have in that case taken a similar position. As it was I sent him a full list as far as could be made out at present

Of one thing however I have been assured by legal Gentleman that whether the Secy so intended or not, the moment he made the demand upon me subsequent to my commission, he put me under compensation, I send You a copy of his communication annexed - Remember me to Dr De Kay, write me soon & believe me truly Your friend & companion in hope

Joseph P. Couthouy

Asa Gray. M.D.
M.S.C. S.S. Expedn

Copy

Navy Department 5 Jan 1837

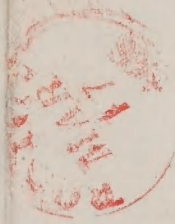
Sir, I have to request that You will furnish me with a statement of such articles as will be indispensably necessary in the department You expect to occupy on the South Sea exploring Expedition, and where & how they may be obtained and the probable cost.

I am with great respect
Your Obdt Hc St
Signed — M. Dickerson

Capt Joseph P. Couthouy
Boston —

There — if the above does not officially place me as "acting under the orders of the department" I cannot read plain English. After my commission he had no right to make a request simply as such for information upon any thing connected with the Expedn — Shew this to our beloved Ethnog — He not going ?! He must & shall by —! "Swear not all" — Well I do not intend to, I am or was only going to say by — hook or by crook, "per fas aut nefas" Dont You say so too?

Yours J. P. C.

MAR 17

Asa Gray M.D.
U.S. Expedition
New York
N.Y.

C. Prince

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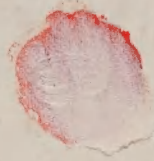
4 Acorn St Boston
(between Mt Vernon & Chest-
nut) May 9. 1856.

My dear Sir,

If You will call as above, You will find a large package of rare Seeds, collected on Pichincha, Cotopaxi & Chimborazo – to your address – will You put them to the best use You can, by raising them yourself, or distribution where they will be suitably cared for – They cost some time & trouble and I should be sorry to have them come to nothing –

There is also a large trunk filled with collections made by me in the Alpine region mainly, of the Ecuadorian Andes from 10. to 15.980 ft –

They have cost me for, Indians, transportation, freight &c

between $30 & $40. which I can
poorly afford to lose — and
hope — Harvard or You may
be able to reimburse me for
this outlay — There are many
plants no doubt new to the
Collections in this Country —
If You can — pay Mrs C.
what You think them worth —
but take them at any rate, if
You are poorer than I
They were collected for You —
expressly —
I have in fine Growth a num-
ber of tubers of a superb Alstroe-
meria — from 12000 feet on Pi-
chincha — & several roots of
Pitcairnia pungens — which
You can have by calling —
The tubers ought to be separa-
ted — or the pail broken up —
they are too confined — The
vine is a large one — The flowers
You will find in the Collection
of plants — large panicles —

I hoped to have got over &
seen You — but have been too
busy — & am suddenly called
to go out to Venezuela — leaving
this afternoon —
Am in Great haste
Yours truly
Jas McCarthony

Prof. Asa Gray, M.D.
Harvard Univ'y